

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 12 and 16, and these claims have been amended to address the Examiner's objections. Withdrawal of the objections is requested.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 7-9, 12, 14 and 21 also have been amended for consistency in spelling the word "flotation" as it is first used in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 5, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 4 rather than claim 3, as suggested by the Examiner, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-4, 6-9 and 12-14, as well as the indication that claims 5, 10, 11 and 19-22 also include allowable subject matter. Claim 19 has been amended to independent form.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the undersigned believes that the application is in condition for allowance and requests issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or thing referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 12-23-03

Theresa M. Sasser
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